



The Old Ironsides Report

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2nd ACR Troopers Search for the Truth

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BAGHDAD, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Eric Nettles, H Company, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Task Force 1st Armored Division, spent a day counting cars in the Sadr (pronounced “say-der”) City area of Baghdad recently.

He was looking for vehicles without license plates, looking also for cars driving a little too fast – any vehicle that looked a bit out of the ordinary and which might be carrying illegal weapons or other contraband.

Nettles and other soldiers from the 3rd platoon manned a traffic control point on a road leading into Sadr City. The 10 soldiers, backed up by two M1 tanks from B Company, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, set up a traffic control point along a rural road on the district’s northeast side.

Their goal was to intercept the flow of illegal weapons into Sadr City.

The team placed warning signs, dragged concertina wire and hung white “engineer” tape on fence pickets to form the search area.

Nettleton’s team directed the vehicles into the search area, where two more crews searched vehicles and passengers. The two tanks and two Humvee gun teams watched the operation with machine guns at the ready.

Passengers and drivers were checked with metal-detecting wands to check for weapons. Everyone was searched. Although they cracked jokes to lighten a serious, sometimes stressful situation, soldiers went out of their way to ensure that everyone was treated with dignity and respect. They made certain the wands did not make contact with the person.

“Most people are pretty cooperative,” said Spec. Adam Novak. “They know we are here trying to help them out.”

The site was surrounded by flocks of children. Pre-teen entrepreneurs attempted to sell cigarettes, soft drinks, trinkets and pornography to the soldiers. Other children were there to watch the activities or hustle water or MREs. While the soldiers did not take advantage of their offers, a couple of the junior businessmen did find a customer or two at the end of the search line.

The children’s shouts of, “Hey Mister! Hey, Mister! Hey Mister!” cut through the engine noise throughout the four-hour operation.

Although bothersome at times, soldiers regard the children as a good omen. “As long as there are children around, things are safe for everyone,” said Sgt. Dale Odgen.

The platoon searched 160 vehicles and one donkey cart. The day’s take: one antique bolt-action rifle, three pistols -- including one carried by a woman -- a bayonet and a magazine for an AK-47 rifle.

Although an inconvenience for some, most of the people who were searched appreciated the search for illegal weapons, said translator Uday Hamid Aboud.

“Sometimes they are angry,” he said. “But some are happy because they understand that we are trying to make things safe. They want safety. They want peaceful lives.”



Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, H Company, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment search for illegal weapons and other contraband items at a traffic control point Aug. 28. The regiment, part of Task Force 1st Armored Division, set up their search area in a rural part of Sadr City.

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

Generators are a very important part of our Force Protection measures. They provide power to run security lights, communications equipment, appliances, and your computers. We lost a generator that caught fire due to poor PMCS. The following list of cautions and warnings, when followed, will ensure safe generator operations:

- Never operate the generator set until it has been properly grounded. Electrical defects in the load lines or equipment can cause death by electrocution when contact is made with an ungrounded system.
- Air must circulate freely around the generator sets at all times during operation. Inadequate ventilation is a major cause of damage to the equipment.
- Never operate the generator set in an enclosed area unless the exhaust gases are piped to the outside. Inhalation of exhaust fumes will result in serious illness or death.
- Refueling generators during operation is prohibited. Allow generators to cool prior to refueling.
- Conduct proper PMCS – check oil level, fuel lines for leaks, secure all electrical connections, and check battery fluid levels.

NEWS

Bush: More Funds Needed for Iraq Mission

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush vowed anew to continue his fight against global terrorism Sunday, but acknowledged that there are challenges ahead and said more U.S. money will be needed to finish the job in Iraq. "We will do whatever is necessary, we will spend what is necessary, to achieve this essential victory in the war on terror, to promote freedom, and to make our nation more secure," Bush said.

Hurricanes Isabel, Fabian Churn at Sea

MIAMI (AP) - Isabel strengthened from a tropical storm into the fourth Atlantic hurricane of the season Sunday, but forecasters said it was still several days from reaching land. Hurricane Fabian, meanwhile, was losing strength but gaining speed in the northern Atlantic, two days after plowing through Bermuda. Forecasters monitored the other major Atlantic storm, a tropical depression that passed over Florida on Saturday, to see if would strengthen back into Tropical Storm Henri.

London Police Simulate Chemical Attack

LONDON (AP) - Police staged a chemical weapons attack on the London Underground on Sunday, simulating a terror strike underneath the heart of the financial district near the mayor's residence. Hundreds of police and emergency services personnel conducted the drill in the Square Mile to test how well emergency services would react to a terrorist strike. Police closed off a subway station and surrounding streets for the exercise.

Afghan Troops Prepare to Attack Taliban

QALAT, Afghanistan (AP) - Hundreds of Afghan government troops prepared Sunday for a new offensive against Taliban guerrillas in the south and east, including along on the border with Pakistan. The planned offensive came amid a visit by U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who told a joint news conference in Kabul with President Hamid Karzai that the infiltration of terrorists into Afghanistan "is something that requires continuing attention."

Chaplain's thought for the day: ***The Leverage of Prayer***

In everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.
--Philippians 4:6

Pastor and author A. B. Simpson told about an old farmer who plowed around a large rock in his field year after year. He had broken one cultivator and two plowshares by hitting it. Each time he saw that obstacle, he grumbled about how much trouble the rock had caused. One day he decided to dig it up and be done with it. Putting a large crowbar under one side, he found to his surprise that the rock was less than a foot thick. Soon he had pried it out of the ground and was carting it away in his wagon. He smiled to think how that "big" old rock had caused him so much needless frustration. Not every trouble can be removed as easily as that stone. But prayer is an effective way to handle difficulties of all sizes. Paul told us to use prayer in every situation (Phil. 4:6).

Fervent prayer dispels anxious care.

SPORTS

Ex-Pats Milloy, Bledsoe Rip N.E. 31-0

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) - Safety Lawyer Milloy needed less than a week to stick it to his former team. Quarterback Drew Bledsoe's wait was longer, but the victory just as sweet. The two former Patriots stars combined for a dominating performance, sparking the Buffalo Bills to a 31-0 victory over New England in their opener Sunday.

Oddly Enough...

Librarians Protest New Action Figure

SEATTLE (AP) -- A new action figure of a frumpy-looking librarian who moves her index finger to her lips with "amazing push-button shushing action!" is prompting librarians around the world to raise their voices in protest. "The shushing thing just put me right over the edge," said Diane DuBois, library director of Caribou Public Library in Caribou, Maine. "We're so not like that anymore. It's so stereotypical I could scream." The 5-inch Librarian Action Figure, which shows a bespectacled woman in a cardigan, long plain skirt and sensible shoes, goes on sale in October for \$8.95. It is produced by Seattle kitsch retailer Archie McPhee and Co., whose lineup of action figures includes Sigmund Freud, Nico the espresso stand barista, and the McPhee action figure that started it all, Jesus Christ. On Web sites and discussion groups, in phone calls and e-mails, librarians from as far as Australia have made it clear how annoyed they are with the doll and Nancy Pearl, the 58-year-old real-life librarian who posed for the action figure. One unsigned e-mail accused Pearl of setting the profession back 30 years. The criticism moved Pearl to stop reading about the figure online. "It's a little bit disconcerting to read about how dowdy you are on somebody's blog," said Pearl, executive director of the Seattle Public Library's Washington Center for the Book. Pearl, who knew she wanted to be a librarian from age 10, started "If All of Seattle Read the Same Book," a book-reading project that has caught on in communities across the country. She loves books so much, she offers reading recommendations on her voice mail. She also wrote the new book "Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment and Reason." Archie McPhee owner Mark Pahlow said that his company admires librarians, and critics of the action figure are missing the point. He said librarians are heroes for everything from encouraging literacy to raising concerns about a federal anti-terrorism law that lets authorities see what books people are checking out from libraries. "They are on the front lines," Pahlow said. "They are speaking up for us." As for the "shushing thing," it is a "playful aspect to get attention," Pahlow said. Despite the backlash, Pearl said she does not regret posing for the doll: "It's a lovely idea and a lovely tribute to my chosen profession."

On This Day in History ***September 8th 1941***

During World War II, German forces begin their siege of Leningrad, a major industrial center and the USSR's second-largest city. The German armies were later joined by Finnish forces that advanced against Leningrad down the Karelian Isthmus. The siege of Leningrad, also known as the 900-Day Siege though it lasted a grueling 872 days, and resulted in the deaths of some one million of the city's civilians and Red Army defenders. In early 1944, Soviet forces approached Leningrad, forcing German forces to retreat southward from the city on January 27. The siege was over. A giant Soviet offensive to sweep the USSR clean of its invaders began in May. The 872-day siege of Leningrad cost an estimated one million Soviet lives, perhaps hundreds of thousands more. The Soviet government awarded the Order of Lenin to the people of Leningrad in 1945, paying tribute to their endurance during the grueling siege. The city did not regain its prewar population of three million until the 1960s.